

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2511

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

QUOTED BELOW IS A FIRST DRAFT OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING  
COMMITTEE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE PREPARED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL STAFF. DRAFT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AN  
INFORMAL REPEAT INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON MORNING OF FRIDAY MAY 25, 1973. BEGIN TEXT:

### DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE

THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION MET IN MINISTERIAL SESSION IN BRUSSELS ON  
THURSDAY, 7 TH JUNE, 1973, FOR ITS REGULAR SPRING MEETING.

2. MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE STATE OF ALLIED DEFENCE IN  
THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION.  
THEY WELCOMED THE INCREASING CONTACTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST;  
THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON THE SCOPE AND CONTENT  
OF THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY; AND THE  
START OF THE EXPLORATORY TALKS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE  
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REDUCTIONS. TEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE CHANGES IN THE  
POLITICAL CLIMATE AND TH PROSPECTS OF IMPROVEMENTS IN EAST/ WEST  
RELATIONS, THESE WERE NOT YET REFLECTED IN ANY REDUCTIONS IN THE  
MILITARY FORCES MAINTAINED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND HER ALLIES

IN THE WARSAW PACT. MINISTERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CAPABILITY OF THESE FORCES, WHICH INDICATE THAT A FORMIDABLE PROGRAMME FOR MODERNISATION, RE-EQUIPMENT AND EXPANSION IS CONTINUING WITH UNABATED MOMENTUM. THEY NOTED WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN THE DELIBERATE STRENGTHENING OF SOVIET FORCES IN EVERY SECTOR; IN THE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES, IN THE LAND AND AIR FORCES FACING THE WEST AND IN THE EXPANSION AND WORLD-WIDE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOVIET NAVY.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MINISTERS REVIEWED THE PRESENT DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF A FURTHER REPORT ON THE ALLIED DEFENCE PROBLEMS IN THE 1970 S (AD 70). THIS REPORT SUMMARISED THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS IN IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES IN EACH REGION, IN RELATION TO THE IMPROVED CAPABILITIES OF THE WARSAW PACT, AND ALSO IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF AREAS OF WEAKNESS WHERE FURTHER EFFORTS WERE STILL REQUIRED. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION MINISTERS PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SPECIAL DEFENCE PROBLEMS OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS.

4. IN ADDITION MINISTERS ALSO REVIEWED THE JOINT DEFENCE PROGRAMMES OF NATO (E. G. INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS) WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMBAT FORCES. FRESH EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE INCREASED NEED TO IMPROVE CO-OPERATION IN LOGISTICS AND IN ARMAMENTS RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE IN ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND FACILITIES TO ENABLE THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND THE NATO DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT THEIR ROLES IN TIMES OF CRISIS. MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE AIMS OF THE ALLIANCE AND ITS DEFENCE POLICY AND CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS A FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION OF THE ENTIRE DEFENCE EFFORT OF THE ALLIANCE.

5. MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF  
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NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS AND STRESSED THAT THE NATO OBJECTIVE REMAINED THE MAINTENANCE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY AT LOWER LEVELS OF FORCES. THEY REITERATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE PART OF COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE WOULD RAISE THE WHOLE BALANCE OF FORCES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED. IN THIS CONNECTION MINISTERS WELCOMED THE REAFFIRMATION BY THE UNITED STATES THAT, GIVEN A SIMILAR APPROACH BY THEIR ALLIES, THEY WOULD MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR FORCES IN EUROPE AND NOT REDUCE THEM EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EAST/ WEST AGREEMENT.

6. PARAGRAPH ON INFRASTRUCTURE.

7. PARAGRAPH ON CNADS

8. PARAGRAPH ON EUROGROUP.

9. FINALLY AND IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS,  
MINISTERS AGREED THE GUIDANCE TO BE GIVEN TO THE NATO MILITARY  
AUTHORITIES ON THE POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND  
TO FORCE PLANNING FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 1980. THIS GUIDANCE,  
WHICH IS ISSUED PERIODICALLY, IS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT  
FORWARD DEFENCE PLANNING IN THE ALLIANCE IS CONTINUOUSLY  
ADAPTED TO CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION.  
FINALLY THEY IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC ISSUES AFFECTING  
PLANNING IN THE LONGER TERM, AND INVITED THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
TO ARRANGE FOR STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITH A VIEW TO FURTHER  
DISCUSSION BY MINISTERS AT A FUTURE MEETING.  
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